REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the Application. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Information Disclosure Statement:

The Examiner is advised that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in this application on March 10, 2003. If the Examiner has not received this document, the Examiner is respectfully encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that a copy may be sent to the Examiner.

Art Rejections:

Claims 1-6, 9-13, and 16-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,633,723, hereinafter *Sugiyama*. *Sugiyama* discloses a video printer including a data deletion feature involving mute data. The *Sugiyama* device receives video signals through a signal processor 11 and processes the video signals according to print conditions stored in a memory 15a of a system controller 15. The *Sugiyama* device further includes a feature for deleting data. This deleting feature is discussed at column 5, lines 12-19. According to the teachings of *Sugiyama*, images are displayed on a screen so that a user can confirm whether or not the images are to be printed before conducting a print operation. Unnecessary images are deleted from the displayed images with a memory delete key to print only the selected images.

The four independent claims of the present invention have been amended to more clearly distinguish the present invention over *Sugiyama*. In particular, as now amended, claim 1 defines an image forming apparatus that includes, among other features, a first memory for storing image data and a second memory for storing image forming conditions. The image forming apparatus further includes a command means for generating a command of discarding image data being printed from the image output unit, an image data discarding controller for discarding the image data stored in the first memory, and a job stopping controller for stopping a printing operation of a job being printed by the image output unit. The claim is further amended to recite that the command means generates a command of discarding the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller and the image data discarding controller discards the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller and maintains the image forming conditions of the job.

Sugiyama does not teach the relationship of stopping a print operation of a job *being printed* and discarding the data of the job *being printed* while maintaining the image forming conditions of the same job. Support for the amendment may be found at least in part on page 15 of the specification.

In view of the fact that the deleting function of *Sugiyama* is not related to deleting data of an image that is being printed, and further wherein the image data discarding controller discards the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller and maintains the image forming conditions of the job, amended claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Sugiyama*.

Claims 10 and 19 define image forming apparatus and have been amended in a manner similar to that as claim 1. Accordingly, as set forth above with regard to claim 1, claims10 and 19 also define a relationship between a print operation of a job being printed and discarding the image data of that job while maintaining the image forming conditions of the job. Accordingly, claims 10 and 19 are also patentable over *Sugiyama* at least for the reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 16 is an image forming method. Claim 16 has been amended to reflect a method including stopping a print operation of image data being printed and erasing the image data from the image memory in response to the command while maintaining the associated image forming conditions in the memory. The method of claim 16 further includes acquiring new image data and storing the new image data in the image memory and printing a new image on a paper, based on the newly acquired image data under the image forming conditions maintained in the memory. Accordingly, at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, the method set forth in amended claim 16 is also patentable over *Sugiyama*.

In view of the foregoing amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-6, 9-13, and 16-19 based on *Sugiyama*.

Claims 7-8 and 14-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sugiyama*. However, claims 7-8 and 14-15 are dependent claims that depend from claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, claims 7, 8, 14, and 15 are patentable over *Sugiyama* at least for the reasons set forth with respect to claims 1 and 10.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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